

# NEWS

FROM THE

# COMMITTEE

**THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE** Institute of Human Relations, 165 E. 56 St., New York, N.Y. 10022, PLaza 1-4000

The American Jewish Committee, founded in 1906, is the pioneer human-relations agency in the United States. It protects the civil and religious rights of Jews here and abroad, and advances the cause of improved human relations for all people.

MORTON YARMON, Director of Public Relations

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW YORK, March 1....The AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE reported today on ongoing projects in two remedial areas urged by the Kerner Commission's report to correct the imbalance between white and Negro in America: closing the gap between the mass news media and Negroes, and helping to train police officers in community relations and to sensitize communities to police problems.

Bertram H. Gold, Executive Director of the COMMITTEE, explained that copies of a 32-page report of a recent COMMITTEE-conducted conference on the mass media and race relations had been sent during the past few days to key executives on newspapers and magazines, and at radio and television stations, throughout the U.S. He added that follow-up meetings were already under way in the crucial area of increasing Negro and other minority representation in editorial jobs in the mass media.

"The Kerner Commission," Mr. Gold added, "points to the pressing need to bring more Negroes into American journalism. Jobs for Negroes on newspapers and magazines and in radio and television mean a great deal beyond simply achieving additional employment at a decent level. Without Negroes in such media, we as a nation are unable to comprehend adequately the misery and hopelessness of slum living, and generally will continue to get an inadequate picture of the crucial race issue. Obtaining a better employment balance in the media cannot but help to reduce distortion, albeit it is unintended."

The COMMITTEE conducted a two-day conference last October at the Columbia School of Journalism, for the Community Relations Service of the U.S. Justice Department, where more than 100 representatives of national mass media and of the Negro and Puerto Rican communities explored mutual problems in the informality of round-table discussions.

-more-

3

Morris E. Abram, President; Philip E. Hoffman, Chairman, Executive Board; Orin Lehman, Chairman, Board of Governors; Nathan Appleman, Chairman, Board of Trustees

Bertram H. Gold, Executive Director

Washington Office: 818 18th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006 • European Hq.: 30 Rue la Boetie, Paris 8, France • Israel Hq.: 2, Hashofim Street, Tel Aviv, Israel  
South American Hq.: San Martin 653, 2 P. 107, Buenos Aires, Argentina • Mexico: Av. Ejercito Nacional 533-304, Mexico 17, D.F.

Smaller groups, Mr. Gold went on, will be meeting this coming week on the problem of increasing the number of editorial jobs among Negroes and Puerto Ricans by seeking to stimulate interest in journalism and related field among high school students in minority-group areas, increasing minority-group representation in college-level and graduate journalism courses, creating an Inter-media Editorial Personnel Center, and creating a recruitment, training, and employment program for the mass media.

Mr. Gold stated also that other communities across the country are using the Columbia session as a model, with AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE chapters specifically involved in conferences scheduled for coming weeks in Los Angeles, Dallas, Houston, and Hartford.

In another remedial area suggested by the Kerner Commission, that of improving police-community relations, Mr. Gold announced that the COMMITTEE would publish at the end of the month a major handbook by George Edwards, former Police Commissioner of Detroit and now a Judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, titled "The Police on the Urban Frontier: A Guide to Community Understanding."

The handbook, copies of which have been ordered in advance of publication by the International Assn. of Chiefs of Police, the National Council on Crime and Delinquency, and other law groups around the country, is expected to serve as a basic resource for police training in human relations as well as a guide to increased community understanding of police problems.

"Judge Edwards' work," Mr. Gold said, "takes on added significance because of the Kerner Commission report. It cuts through the tangle of criticism surrounding police practice in the central city, and gets to the core problems of race relations and law enforcement today. Judge Edwards, drawing on 30 years of experience and study, offers realistic guidelines for a professional police force capable of safeguarding civil liberties, yet maintaining law and order in a period of social crisis."

Founded in 1906, the AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE is the pioneer human relations agency in this country. It combats bigotry, protects the civil and religious rights of Jews here and abroad, and advances the cause of human rights for all.

\* \* \*

(3)

NEWS

FROM THE

COMMITTEE

**THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE** Institute of Human Relations, 165 E. 56 St., New York, N.Y. 10022, PLaza 1-4000

The American Jewish Committee, founded in 1906, is the pioneer human-relations agency in the United States. It protects the civil and religious rights of Jews here and abroad, and advances the cause of improved human relations for all people.

MORTON YARMON, Director of Public Relations

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW YORK, March 1.... The executive head of the AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE hailed the report of the Kerner Commission today as "a candid analysis of just why our cities have been wracked by riots these past summers," and urged fullest public awareness of "what we must do if the term 'long hot summer' is ever again to mean the warmth and tranquility that it once meant for American cities."

The full statement by Bertram H. Gold, Executive Director of the human relations agency, follows:

"For too long, reports on riots have been either fragmentary or simply inadequate. Now for the first time we have a highest-level group with the courage to present a candid analysis of just why our cities have been wracked by riots these past summers, and what we must do if the term 'long hot summer' is ever again to mean the warmth and tranquility it once meant for American cities. At our national peril, we will ignore or reject the Commission's words.

"The Kerner Commission report is must reading for every American. I am calling upon all our members and area offices to promote in every possible way the fullest public understanding of the issues, as the Commission has so clearly delineated them, and of its extremely sound recommendations."

Founded in 1906, the AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE is the pioneer human relations agency in this country. It combats bigotry, protects the civil and religious rights of Jews here and abroad and advances the cause of human rights for all.

# # #

No. 22

• 3/1/68

A, AA, NPL, NPE, COL, NEG-A, NEG-B, NEG-C, P-CR, NYS

Monte E. Abram, President; Philip K. Hoffman, Chairman, Executive Board; Orin Lehman, Chairman, Board of Governors; Nathan Appleman, Chairman, Board of Trustees  
Bertram H. Gold, Executive Director

Washington Office: 818 18th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006 • European hq: 30 Rue la Boetie, Paris 8, France • Israel hq: 2, Hashofim Street, Tel Aviv, Israel  
South American hq: San Martin 663, 2° P. ICA, Buenos Aires, Argentina • Mexico: Av. Ejercito Nacional 533 - 304, Mexico 37, D.F.

3